

# MUMBLES #6

Stories by  
John Eberly

Illustrated by  
Bob "X"

The Pizz

James Waltman

Mary Fleener

Margot

George Velez



Yes, it's been four years since the last MUMBLES appeared. And that was the MUMBLES READER, mostly stories. It's been five years since MUMBLES #4 came out, the last anthology of mainly comics. Now here is MUMBLES #6, a cross between the READER and the first four MUMBLES numbers, all stories by John E, illustrated by six different artists.

In 1983 I sent Steve Willis a long, rambling story about experiences in the Great Northwest titled THE GREAT AMERICAN PIPE DREAM. Steve suggested I send the story to Bob "X", then just getting XEX GRAPHIX off the ground with his buddy XNO. Bob liked the story and agreed to illustrate part of it titled SNAKE PARANOIA IN THE LAND OF OZ. It became a joint XEX/MUMBLES mini-comik published the following year. About the same time I'd become friendly with The Pizz, who was breaking on the scene with his great REVERAND BLOOD and CHRIST ON A CRUTCH comix. He agreed to illustrate a story titled FIRE AND SMOKE, which became the first (and last) CROSS COUNTRY COMIX PUB. James Waltman was next, illustrating a story I wrote as a take-off on Poe's TELL TALE HEART titled YOU SMELL LIKE BLOOD. This was printed on blood-red paper, digest-size, and published by MUMBLES PUBLICATIONS. Margot did a fine job interpreting MODUS OPERANDI in 1986, this one published for the first time in these pages. Mary Fleener drew the panels for THEY WERE IN LOVE, which first came out as her first LIES THEY TELL comik, then it later appeared in SNARF #10. Her treatment of LOADED makes it's debut here. George Velez illustrated THE BLOOD BATH, first published in THRESHOLD OF REALITY in 1987. Thanks to all these fine artists, those who are still in contact, and also those I've lost track of over the years. You see what I mean.


John Eberly 3/89





# NAKE PARANOIA

IN THE LAND OF OZ ...

STORY BY: JOHNE.  
ART & LAYOUT BY: BOB "X"   
XEX GRAPHIX — MUMBLES.

JOHNE · MUMBLES · BOB "X" · XEX



BOBX



WE'ED BEEN UP FOUR DAYS...



BURNIN', CHURNIN' DOWN...

WE ARRIVED AROUND 4

HE WAS IN NO



WE WENT RITE TO BRENT'S

SHAPE TO TALK

WE SCORED AND SPLIT TO B.J.'S

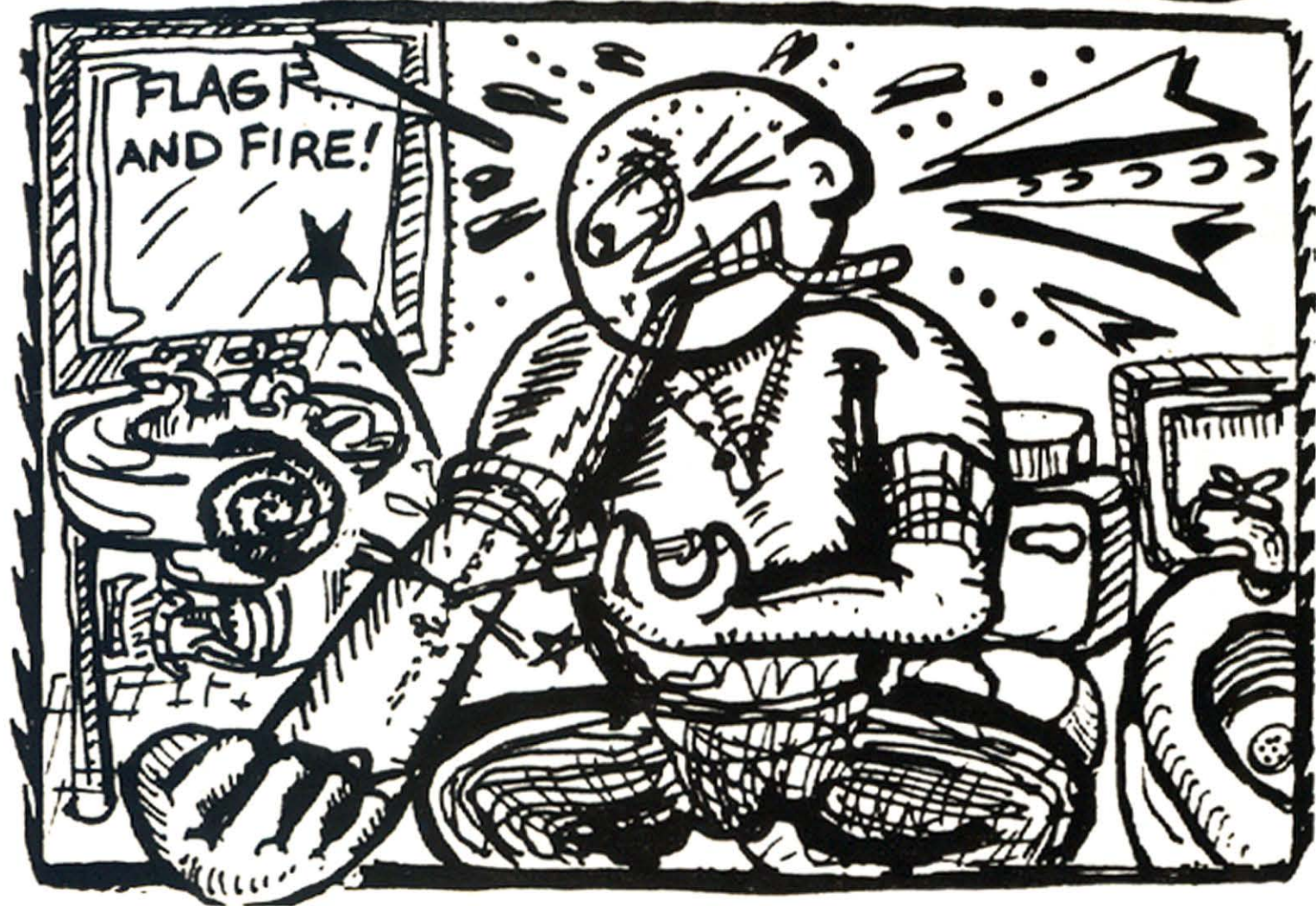


HE GREETED US IN KARATE ATTIRE



THE BATHROOM!







THE RUSH HIT LIKE A FRIEHT TRAIN.!!



AS I STOOD UP

I CAME OUT OF THE  
BATHROOM AND ALMOST



I WAS A NEW MAN...  
I FELT NORMAL AGAIN...  
WARM... GOOD...



BUMPED INTO A FAT GIRL  
WITH BUCK TEETH!



SHE HAD A MOUSE



TO FEED TO HIS PET SNAKE

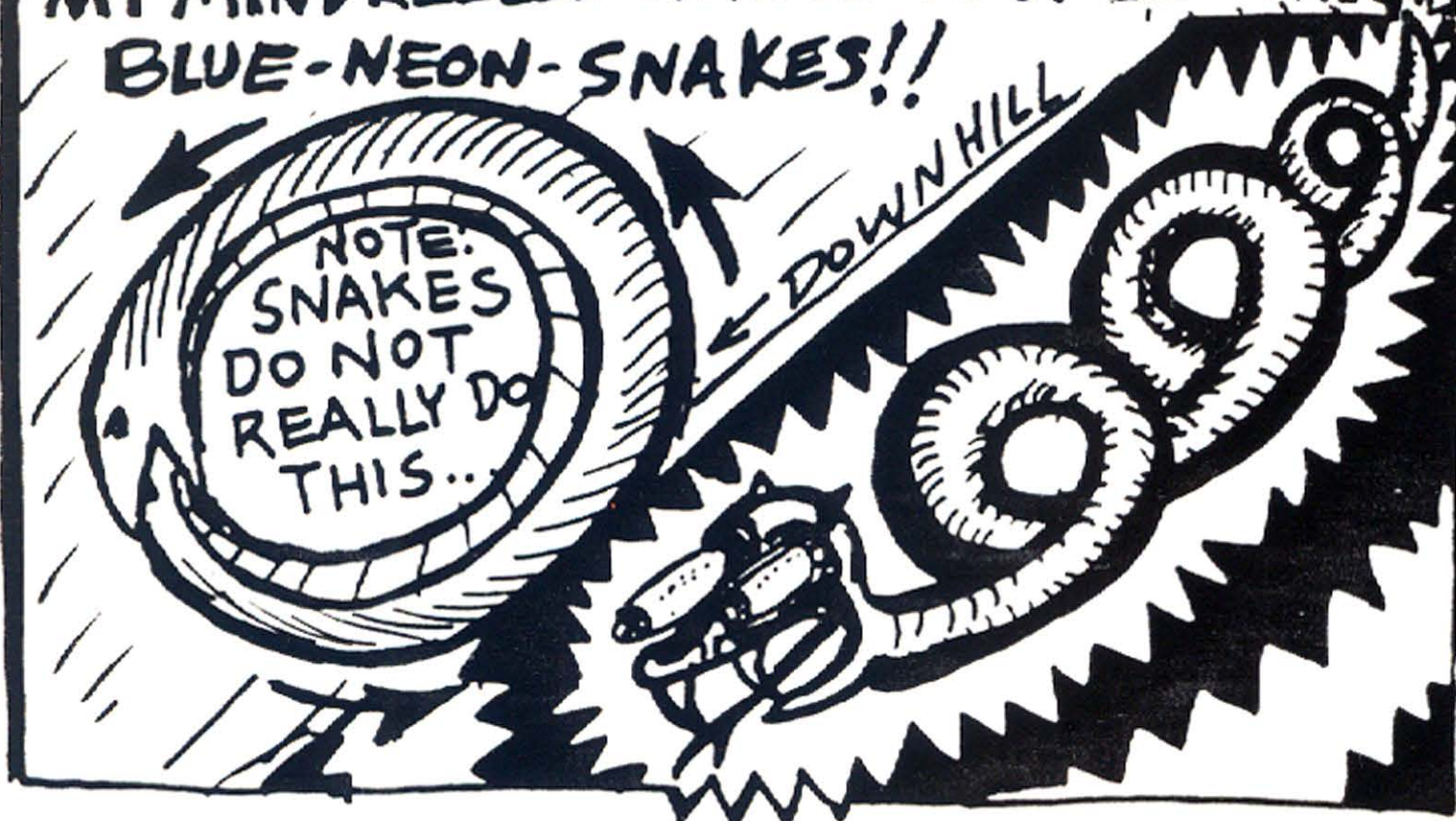




AS THE CROWD WATCHED, THE SNAKE DEVOUR THE RODENT, I REALIZED, I...



I HAD COME 2500 MILES TO SEE A BOA  
CONSTRUCTOR EAT A VERY FREAKED-OUT MOUSE  
MY MIND REELED WITH VISIONS OF ELECTRIC  
BLUE-NEON-SNAKES!!





ROSEY ROONEY FELL INTO A



WATER MOOISEN NEST AT  
THE SPILL-WAY!!

GRANNY IN OKLAHOMA KILLS 'EM



WITH A HOE

CUB SCOUT  
LEADER GETS  
BIT BY GARTER  
SNAKE

TIM MEKLOSKEY  
WOKE UP WITH A

GREEN PYTHON IN HIS  
SLEEPING BAG WHILE IN  
THE PHILIPPINES



AGE: 12

KANSAS CIRCUS  
MASTER  
JIM BULL  
HAD A BOA  
HE KEPT  
BEHIND THE  
STOVE ALL  
WINTER. IN  
THE SPRING  
AND SUMMER  
SMALL DOGS  
AND CHILDREN  
WERE KNOWN  
TO DISSAPPEAR.

CORNELL WILDE  
ATE RAW ASP



IN THE FILM  
"NAKED PREY"

JIM FRANCIS  
SHOWS HOW TO  
FEED A RATTLE  
SNAKE AN  
EGG AND  
ALMOST HIS  
FINGERS.





NEXT THING I KNEW...



I WAS IN CHERI'S BED.

AFTER 2 HOURS OF JUNKY SWEAT, I SLID INTO SLEEP WEARING ONE SILENT EYE.



NOW.. I'M TALKING TO A MAN WITH A SLIGHT BEARD.



I'VE ONLY BEEN ON THIS... PLANET FOR... A SHORT... TIME...

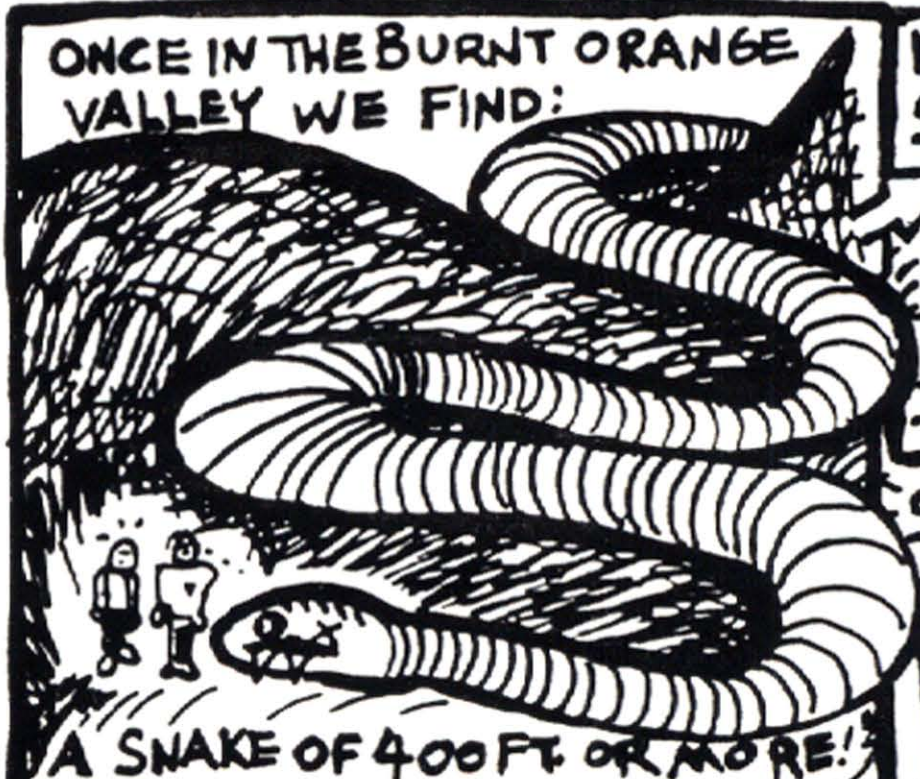


WE BEAM DOWN TO A VALLEY...





ONCE IN THE BURNT ORANGE  
VALLEY WE FIND:



IT BLOCKS OUR WAY,  
SPINS AND CHANGES



THE SCENE SHIFTS  
I'M IN CHERL'S BED

SHE'S SMILIN' EVIL!



A SNAKE OF 400 FT OR MORE!

I FEEL SICK.  
RUN TO THE



SHOOT X  
SOME  
MORE  
DOPE



COME OUT OF  
THE BATHROOM

COPPER HEADS!  
COPPER HEADS!  
ARE EVERYWHERE



ALL OVER CHERL!!



OMY GOD! SHE'S ONE TOO

MOM BRINGS ME MY PET SNAKE.....

I WAKE UP!  
AGAIN!



AM I IN KANSAS?  
IS THIS REAL? MOM  
AND POP SURE LOOK  
WORRIED I'VE HAD  
A FEVER? ...NOW....



FOLLOW THE NUMBERS ON THE PANELS FOR STORY SEQUENCE....





I NOTICED THE ELEVATOR GOING UP TO THE THIRD FLOOR.

I TOOK THE STAIRS AND GOT TO THE 3RD FLOOR HALLWAY. JUST WHEN SHE WAS TURNING THE KEY IN THE LOCK.

SHE GLANCED UP AT ME ONLY WHEN I PUSHED HER INTO THE APARTMENT.

FOR AWHILE I WATCHED HER MOVE ON THE BED, EYES WILD... SHE WAS PRETTY SEXY LIKE THAT, I GOTTA ADMIT.

THEN I POCKETED THE SMOKE & SPLIT.

SHE CAME AROUND & STARTED TO SQUIRM JUST AS I SPOTTED THE PACK OF MARLBOROS ON THE NIGHTSTAND.

I WAS QUITE AWAYS DOWN THE STREET WHEN I DECIDED TO HAVE ANOTHER CIG.

GOT ONE OUT & SEARCHED MY POCKETS IN VAIN FOR THE MATCHES.

I BROKE THE SEAL, TAPPED ONE OUT, LIT IT, & WIPED THE SWEAT OFF MY BROW.

SHOULD I GO BACK & GET 'EM?

NAW, IM TRYIN TO QUIT.

©1984 ART THE PRZ STORY: JOHN E. CROSS COUNTRY COMIX PUBS.



# YOU SMELL BLOOD

LIKE



STORY: JOHN E. ©84  
ART & LETTERS:  
JAMES WALTMAN ©84



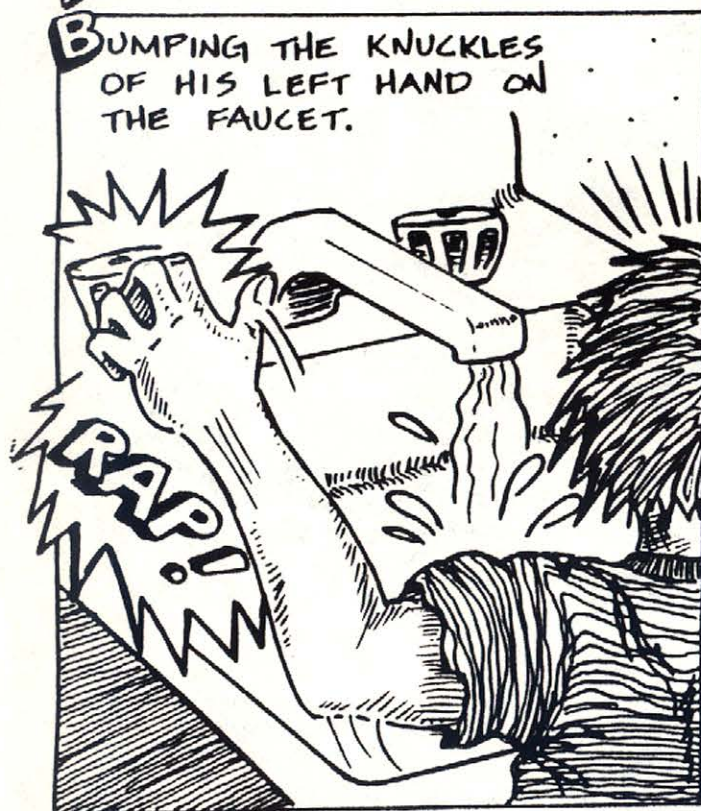
**R**ED CAME UP FROM  
THE GARAGE AND...

WALKED INTO THE  
KITCHEN WHEN HE HEARD  
A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

**W**HO IN THE HELL  
... AT THIS HOUR?







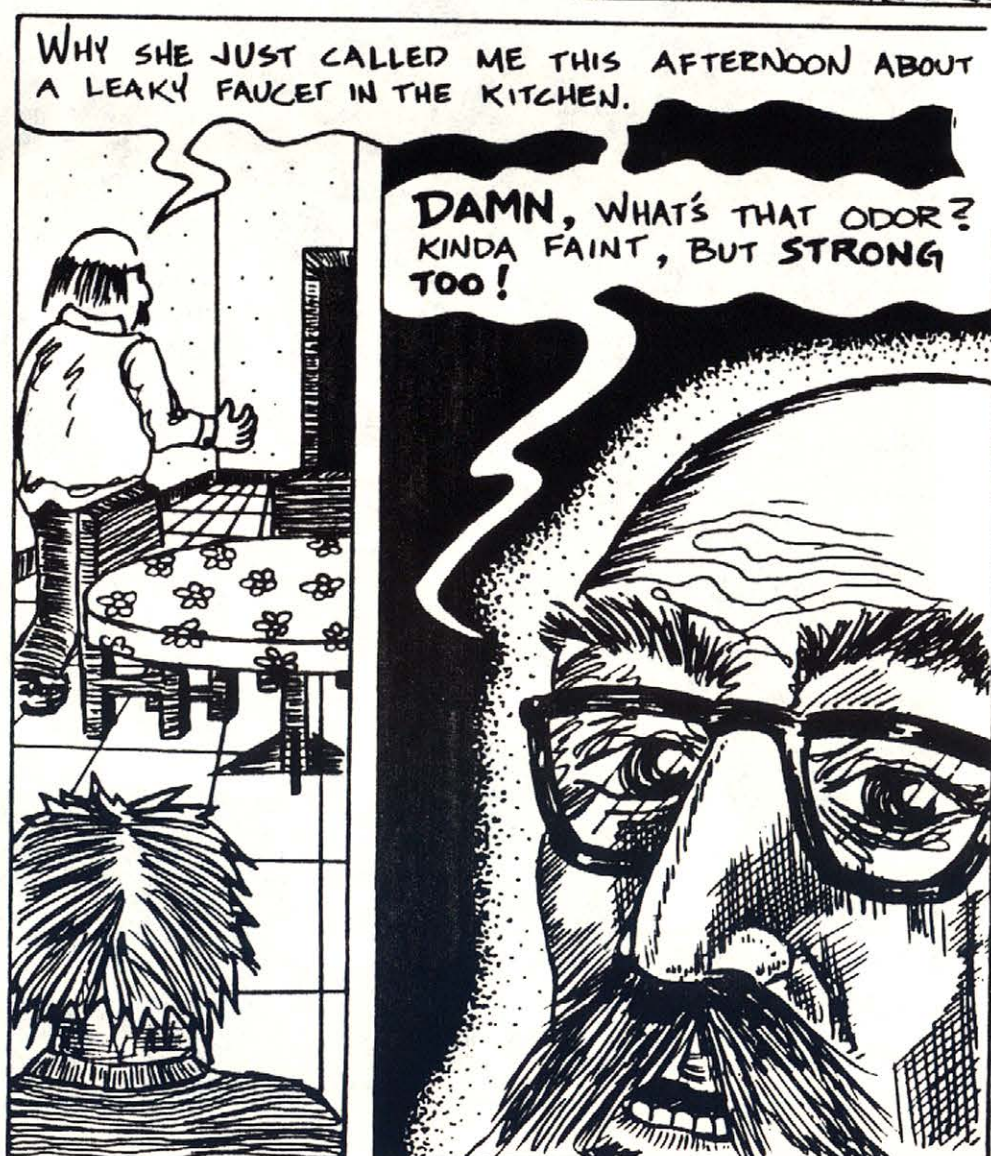
**"RED! GODDAM! DID I WAKE YOU AND THE MISSUS UP?"**



**IT WAS THE BUILDING SUPERVISOR.**

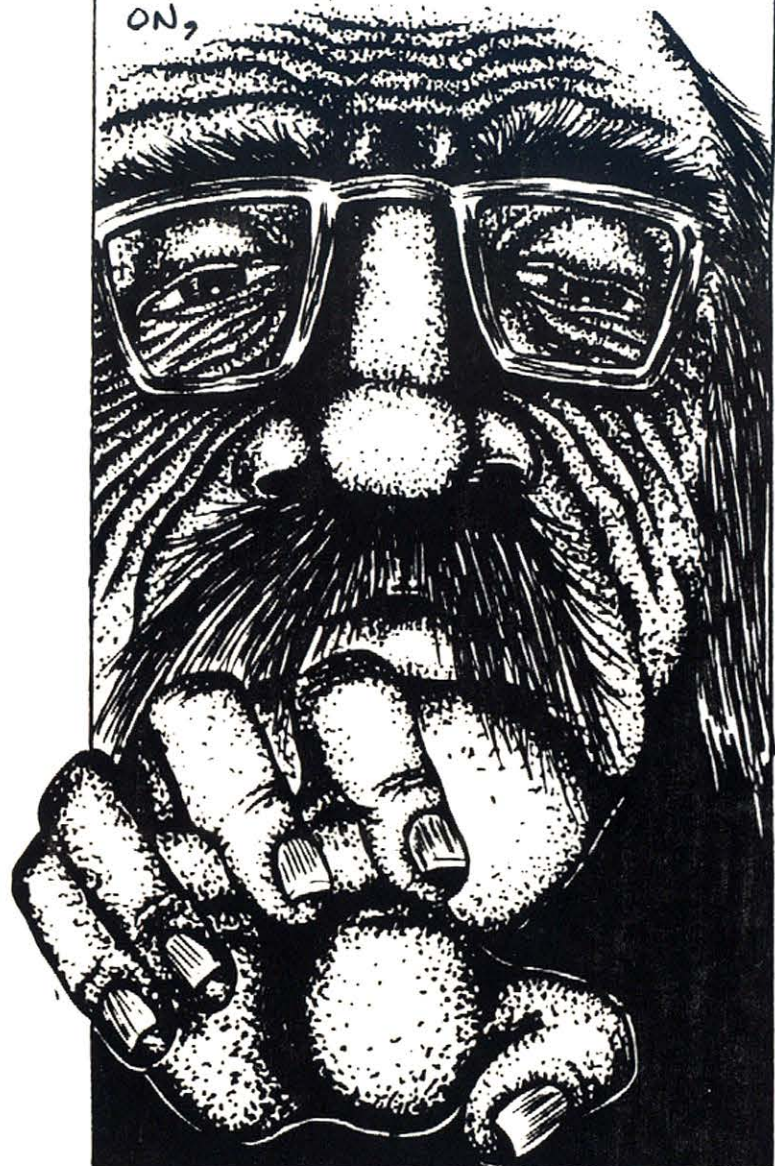








HE PICKED UP THE TOWEL  
RED HAD WIPED HIS HANDS  
ON,



AND SNIFFED IT...

HMMN... DAMP TOO...  
YOU JUST USE THIS?

UH, YEAH...



WELL, SHIT, SON... CUT  
YOURSELF ON SOMETHIN'?

YOU SMELL  
LIKE BLOOD!







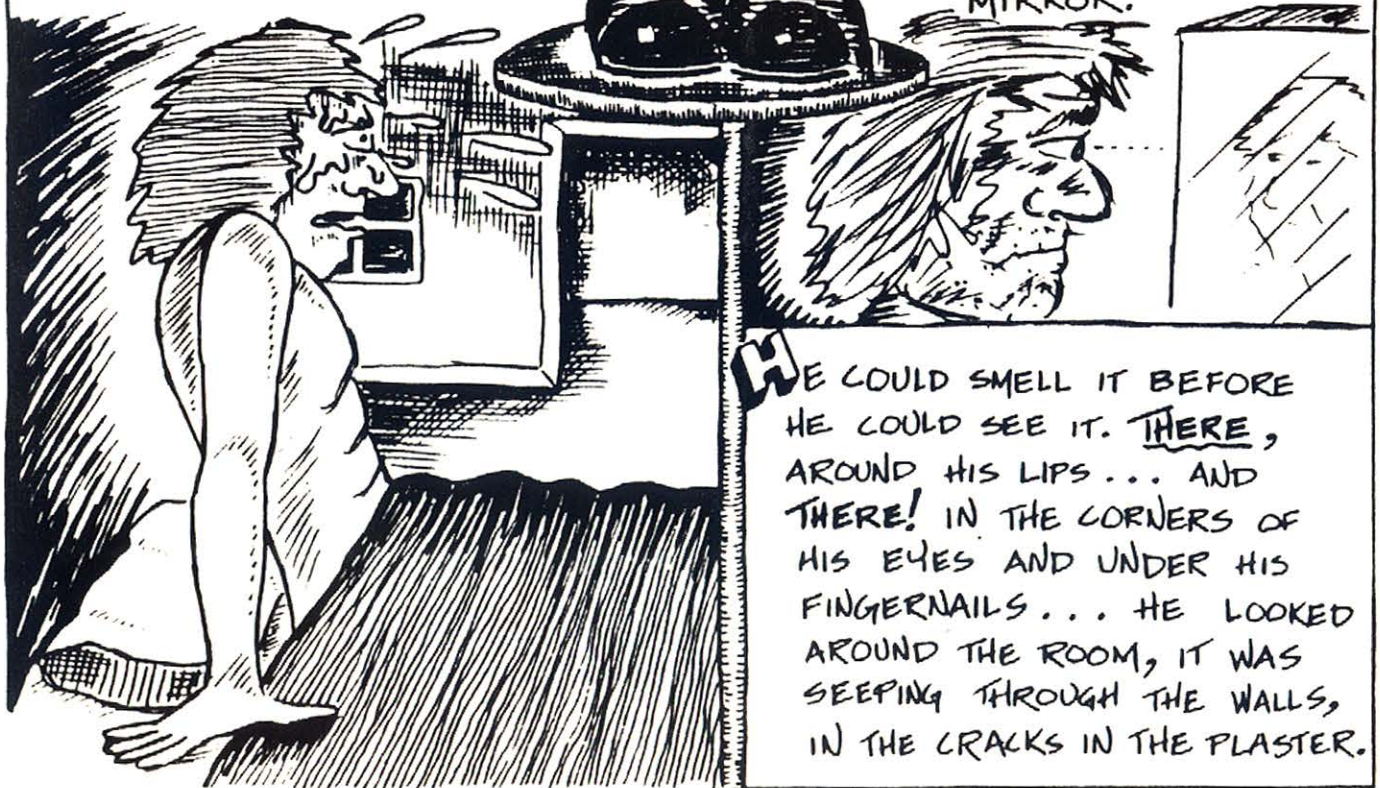


**R**ED DRIFTED OFF TO SLEEP... IN HIS DREAMS, FACES KEPT POPPING UP SAYING THE SAME THING, AGAIN AND AGAIN:



**R**ED WOKE UP SUDDENLY, COVERED IN... SWEAT, HIS BREATH CAME FAST AND SHORT.

**H**E BOLTED TO THE BATHROOM, TURNED ON THE LIGHT, AND LOOKED IN THE MIRROR.



**H**E COULD SMELL IT BEFORE HE COULD SEE IT. THERE, AROUND HIS LIPS... AND THERE! IN THE CORNERS OF HIS EYES AND UNDER HIS FINGERNAILS... HE LOOKED AROUND THE ROOM, IT WAS SEEPING THROUGH THE WALLS, IN THE CRACKS IN THE PLASTER.



**H** HE RAN AROUND HIS APARTMENT, IT WAS IN EVERY ROOM, COMING DOWN THE WALLS, DRIPPING OFF THE CEILINGS, AND ALL OVER HIM BY NOW.



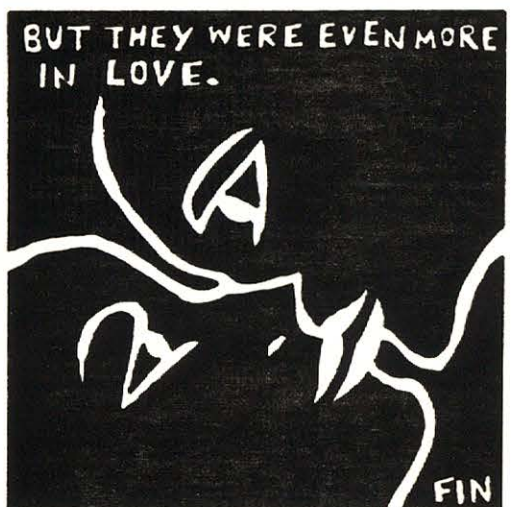
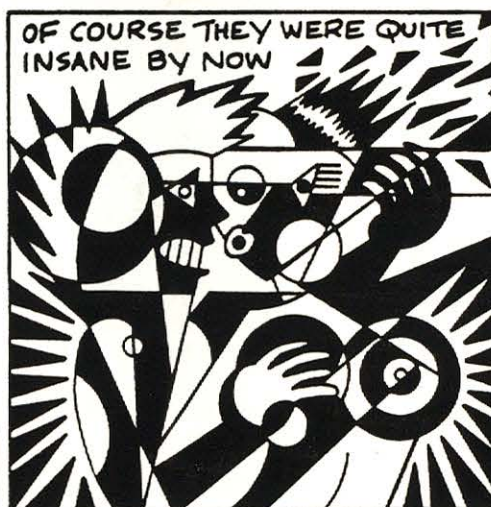
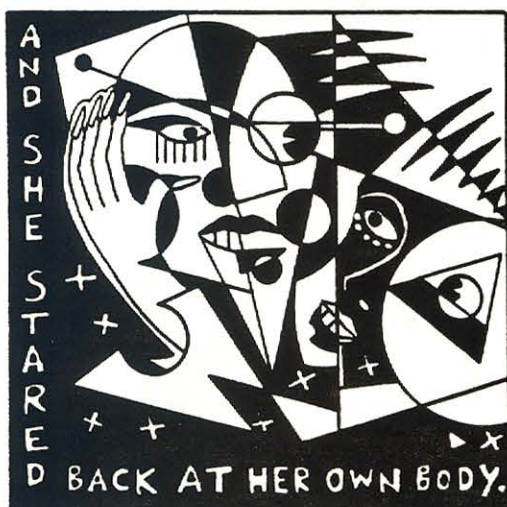
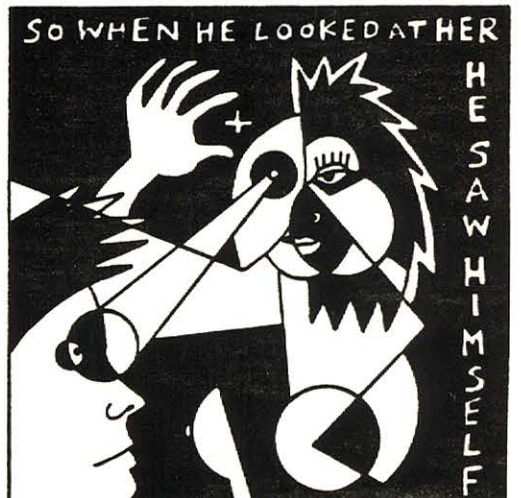
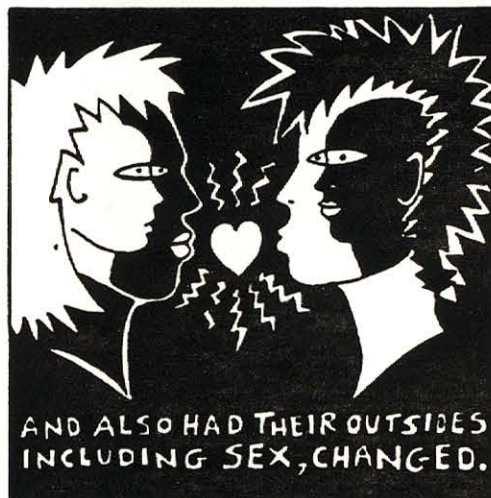
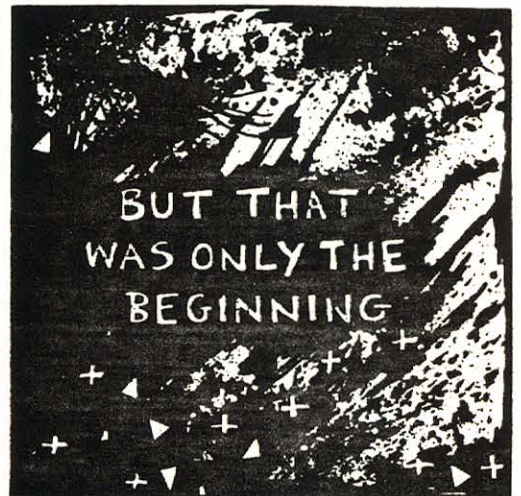
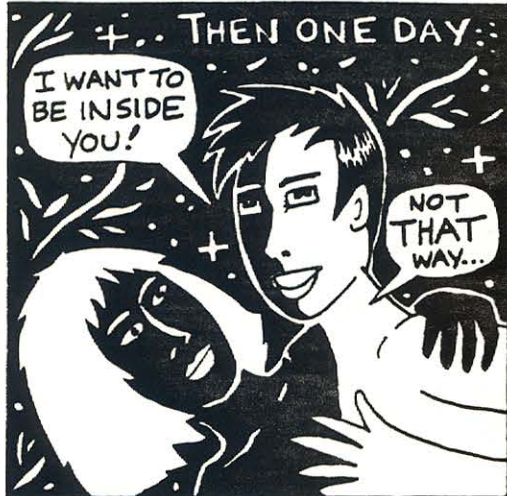
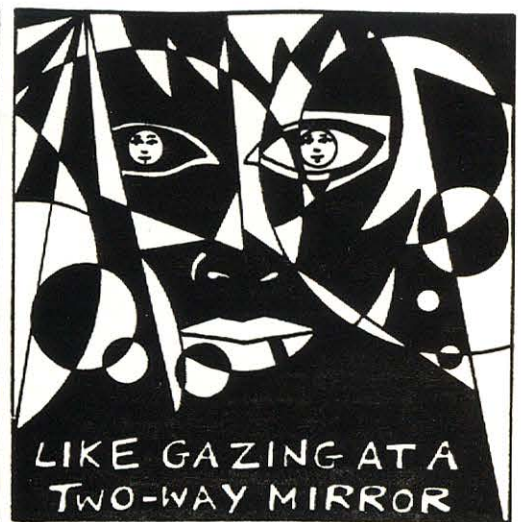
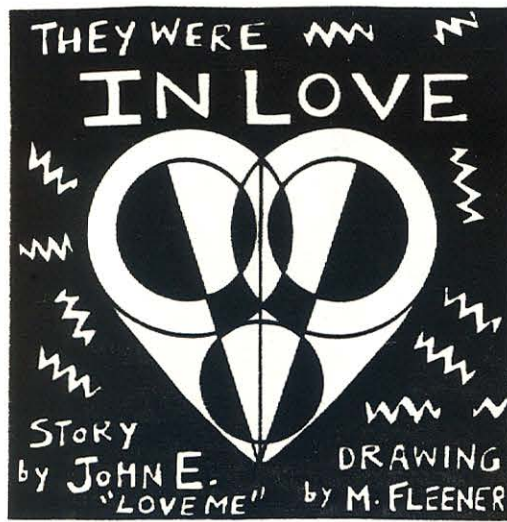
**H** HE GRABBED THE SLIPPERY PHONE AND DIALED WITH ONE SHAKEY, CRIMSON FINGER...



**H** HELLO, POLKE? I KNOW YOU CAN SMELL IT. IT'S EVERYWHERE. I KILLED HER, SHE'S BURIED IN THE PARK BY THE FOUNTAIN. YES. FRESH FLOWER BED. DISMEMBERED. ALL THE WAY AROUND THE FOUNTAIN, WHO? HA HA HA HA HA! WHY, MY WIFE OF COURSE. BLOOD, BLOOD EVERYWHERE! CAN'T YOU SMELL IT?





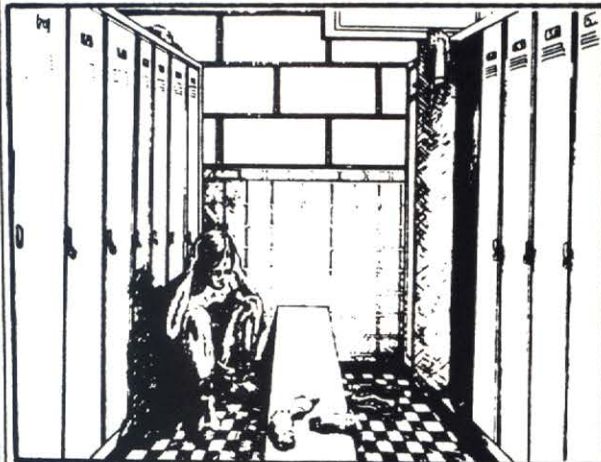






STORY: John E.  
IMAGES: © 1984

THE ROAR. THIS IS THE ROAR. COMING IN ON  
ALL SIDES FROM AETHER DOWN TO THE LOCKER ROOM.

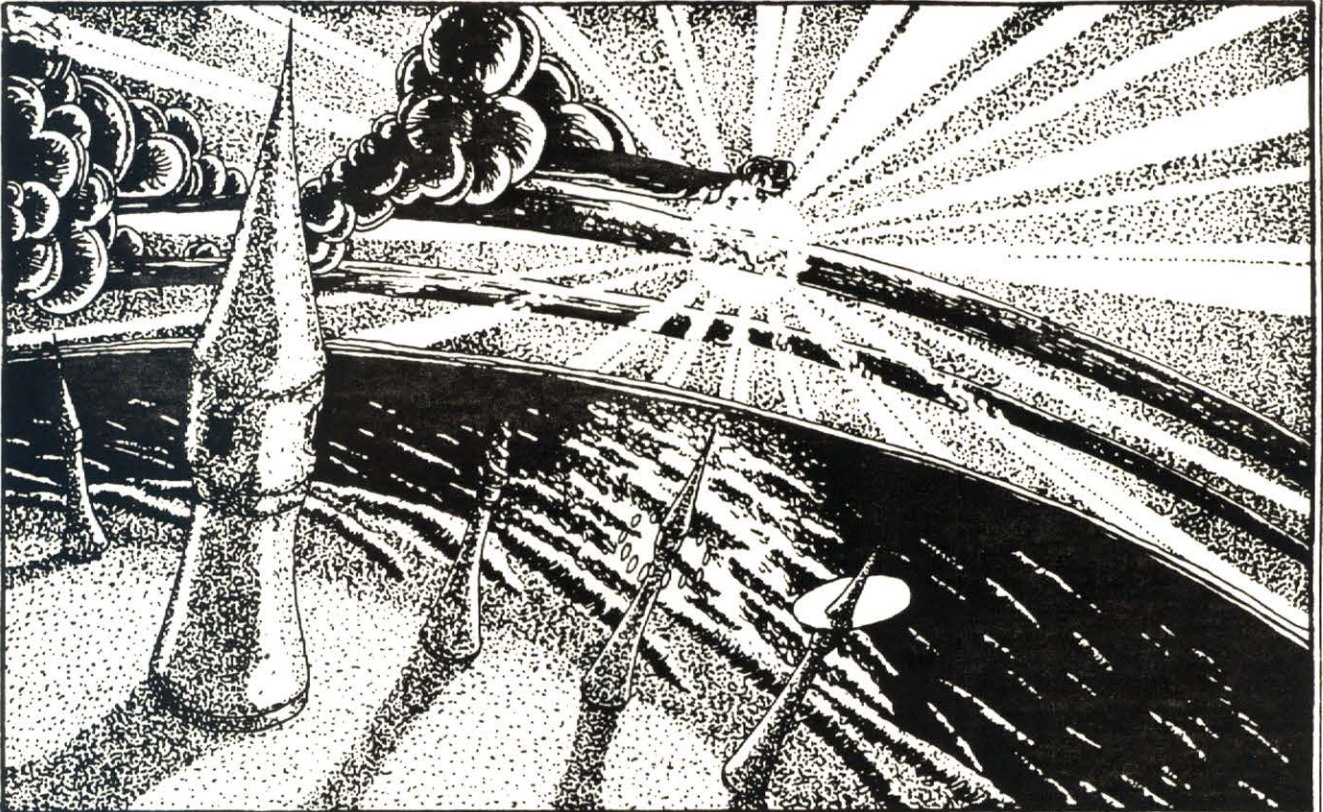
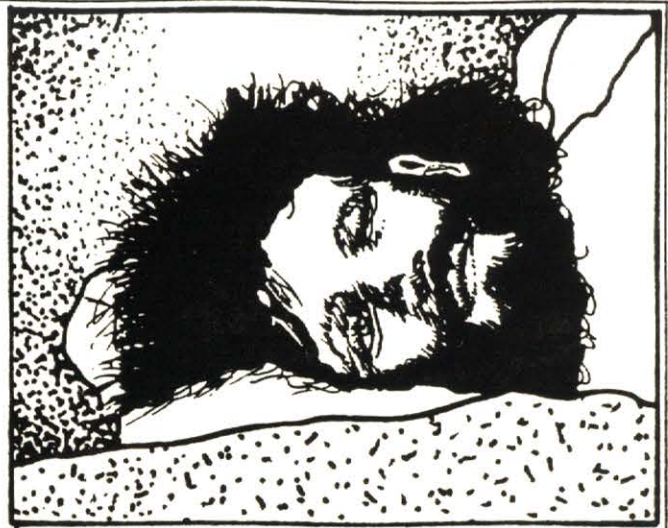


IT IS THE ROAR OF ALL STORMS PRESENT, THE  
ROAR OF HURRICANES AND CYCLONES.



THE DRONE OF BELLS IN HELL.





NO ONE KNOWS HOW BLUE THE SKY IS THIS MORNING,



HOW GREEN IT MAKES  
THE WATER SEEM.

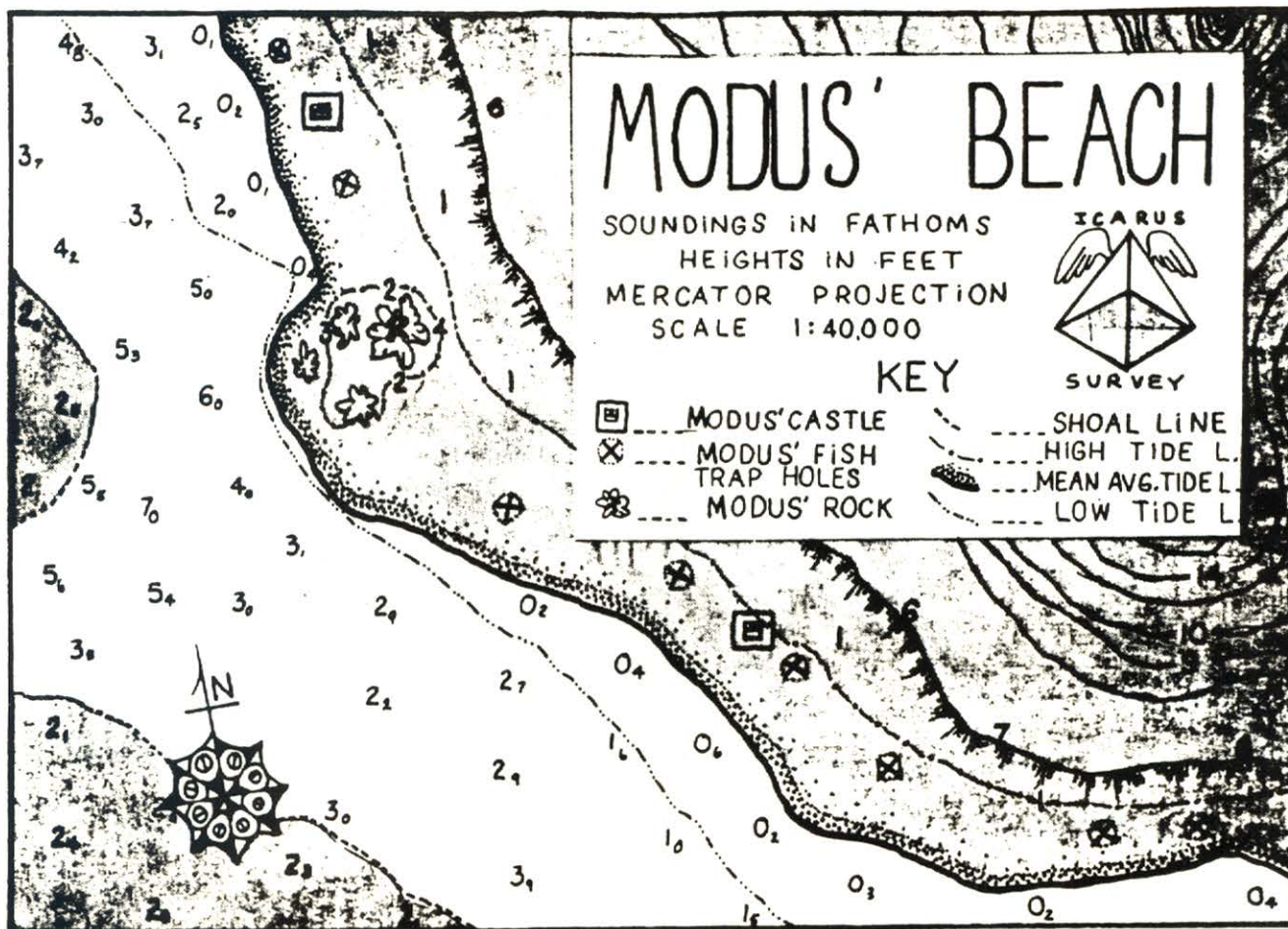


NO ONE KNOWS THAT  
OLD MODUS IS NOT DEAD.





WET NEAR THE EDGE.



MODUS HAS DONE THIS MANY TIMES.



SMACKS BLISTERED LIPS...WIND AND THE ROAR.



# Tide Tables:

Time of tides shown is Eastern Standard Time. Add one hour for Daylight Savings Time. All time is shown by an A after the time. No letter after the time indicates PM time.

JANUARY			FEBRUARY			MARCH			APRIL			MAY			JUNE			JULY			AUGUST			SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER			NOVEMBER			DECEMBER		
DATE	HIGH	LOW	DATE	HIGH	LOW	DATE	HIGH	LOW	DATE	HIGH	LOW	DATE	HIGH	LOW	DATE	HIGH	LOW	DATE	HIGH	LOW	DATE	HIGH	LOW	DATE	HIGH	LOW	DATE	HIGH	LOW	DATE	HIGH	LOW	DATE	HIGH	LOW
1	5:54A	11:06A	1	5:52A	11:04A	1	5:50A	11:02A	1	5:48A	11:00A	1	5:46A	10:58A	1	5:44A	10:56A	1	5:42A	10:54A	1	5:40A	10:52A	1	5:38A	10:50A	1	5:36A	10:48A	1	5:34A	10:46A	1	5:32A	10:44A
2	6:11A	11:23A	2	6:09A	11:21A	2	6:07A	11:19A	2	6:05A	11:17A	2	6:03A	11:15A	2	6:01A	11:13A	2	5:59A	11:11A	2	5:57A	11:09A	2	5:55A	11:07A	2	5:53A	11:05A	2	5:51A	11:03A	2	5:49A	11:01A
3	6:28A	11:40A	3	6:26A	11:38A	3	6:24A	11:36A	3	6:22A	11:34A	3	6:20A	11:32A	3	6:18A	11:30A	3	6:16A	11:28A	3	6:14A	11:26A	3	6:12A	11:24A	3	6:10A	11:22A	3	6:08A	11:20A	3	6:06A	11:18A
4	6:45A	11:57A	4	6:43A	11:55A	4	6:41A	11:53A	4	6:39A	11:51A	4	6:37A	11:49A	4	6:35A	11:47A	4	6:33A	11:45A	4	6:31A	11:43A	4	6:29A	11:41A	4	6:27A	11:39A	4	6:25A	11:37A	4	6:23A	11:35A
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25	12:42A	5:54A	25	12:40A	5:52A	25	12:38A	5:50A	25	12:36A	5:48A	25	12:34A	5:46A	25	12:32A	5:44A	25	12:30A	5:42A	25	12:28A	5:40A	25	12:26A	5:38A	25	12:24A	5:36A	25	12:22A	5:34A	25	12:20A	5:32A
26	1:00A	6:11A	26	1:00A	6:10A	26	1:00A	6:08A	26	1:00A	6:06A	26	1:00A	6:04A	26	1:00A	6:02A	26	1:00A	6:00A	26	1:00A	5:58A	26	1:00A	5:56A	26	1:00A	5:54A	26	1:00A	5:52A	26	1:00A	5:50A
27	1:17A	6:28A	27	1:17A	6:27A	27	1:17A	6:25A	27	1:17A	6:23A	27	1:17A	6:21A	27	1:17A	6:19A	27	1:17A	6:17A	27	1:17A	6:15A	27	1:17A	6:13A	27	1:17A	6:11A	27	1:17A	6:09A	27	1:17A	6:07A
28	1:34A	6:45A	28	1:34A	6:44A	28	1:34A	6:42A	28	1:34A	6:40A	28	1:34A	6:38A	28	1:34A	6:36A	28	1:34A	6:34A	28	1:34A	6:32A	28	1:34A	6:30A	28	1:34A	6:28A	28	1:34A	6:26A	28	1:34A	6:24A
29	1:51A	7:02A	29	1:51A	7:01A	29	1:51A	6:59A	29	1:51A	6:57A	29	1:51A	6:55A	29	1:51A	6:53A	29	1:51A	6:51A	29	1:51A	6:49A	29	1:51A	6:47A	29	1:51A	6:45A	29	1:51A	6:43A	29	1:51A	6:41A
30	2:08A	7:19A	30	2:08A	7:18A	30	2:08A	7:16A	30	2:08A	7:14A	30	2:08A	7:12A	30	2:08A	7:10A	30	2:08A	7:08A	30	2:08A	7:06A	30	2:08A	7:04A	30	2:08A	7:02A	30	2:08A	7:00A	30	2:08A	6:58A
31	2:25A	7:36A	31	2:25A	7:35A	31	2:25A	7:33A	31	2:25A	7:31A	31	2:25A	7:29A	31	2:25A	7:27A	31	2:25A	7:25A	31	2:25A	7:23A	31	2:25A	7:21A	31	2:25A	7:19A	31	2:25A	7:17A	31	2:25A	7:15A



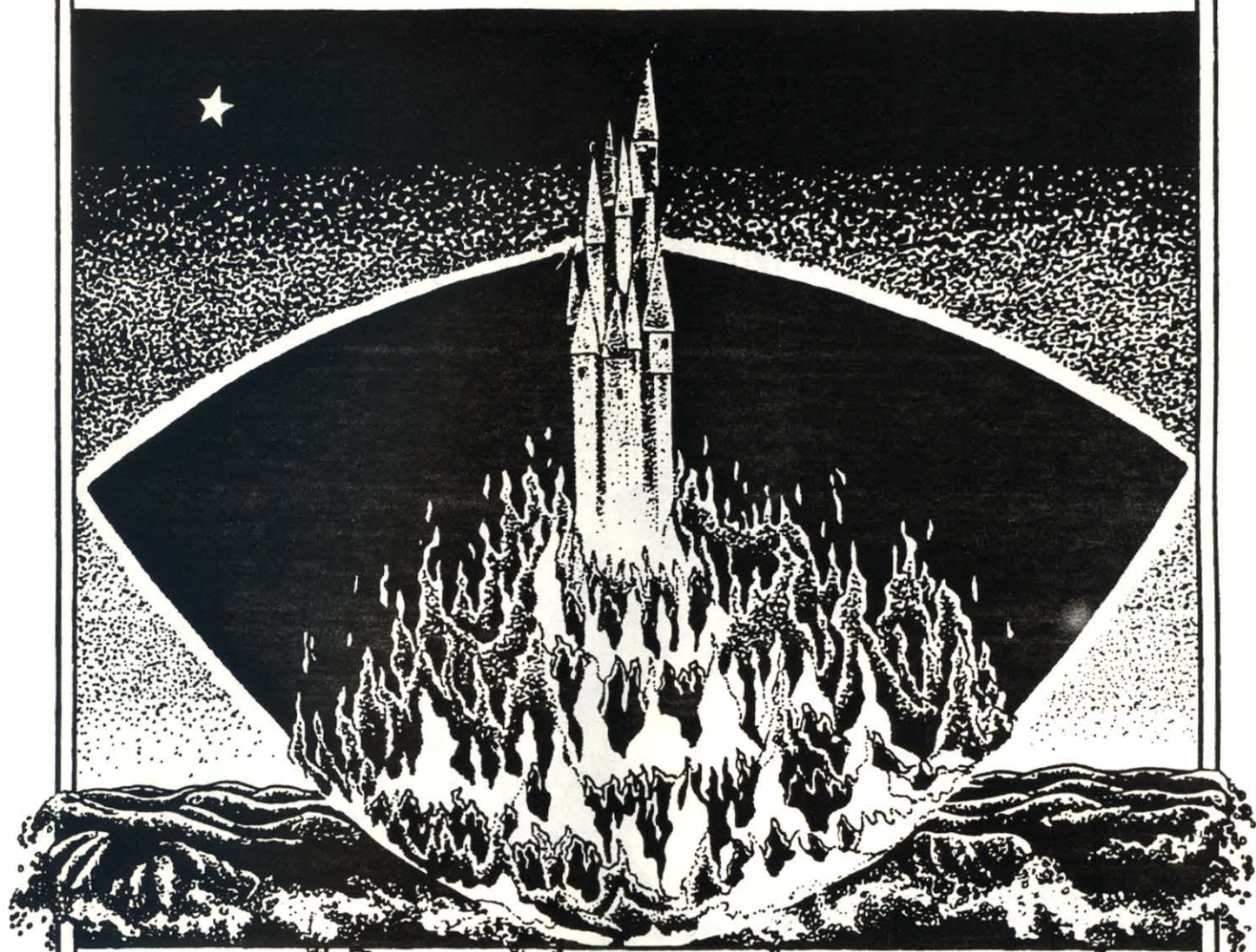
IN A WHILE HE EATS...



...AS MANY  
AS HE CAN.



NO ONE KNOWS HOW RED THE SKY IS AT DUSK.



NO ONE KNOWS IT PAINTS THE SEA LIKE FLOATING FIRE.

# SUNRISE AND SUNSET

## STANDARD TIME

	APR.	MAY	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.
DAY	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
1	5:52	6:30	5:09	5:59	5:25	6:02	5:50	6:34
2	5:50	6:31	5:07	5:58	5:23	6:01	5:48	6:32
3	5:49	6:32	5:06	5:57	5:22	6:00	5:47	6:31
4	5:47	6:33	5:05	5:56	5:21	5:59	5:45	6:30
5	5:45	6:34	5:04	5:55	5:20	5:58	5:44	6:29
6	5:44	6:35	5:03	5:54	5:19	5:57	5:43	6:28
7	5:42	6:36	5:02	5:53	5:18	5:56	5:42	6:27
8	5:41	6:37	5:01	5:52	5:17	5:55	5:41	6:26
9	5:39	6:38	5:00	5:51	5:16	5:54	5:40	6:25
10	5:38	6:39	4:59	5:50	5:15	5:53	5:39	6:24
11	5:36	6:40	4:57	5:48	5:14	5:52	5:38	6:23
12	5:35	6:41	4:56	5:47	5:13	5:51	5:37	6:22
13	5:33	6:42	4:54	5:45	5:12	5:50	5:36	6:21
14	5:32	6:43	4:53	5:44	5:11	5:49	5:35	6:20
15	5:30	6:44	4:51	5:42	5:10	5:48	5:34	6:19
16	5:29	6:45	4:50	5:41	5:09	5:47	5:33	6:18
17	5:27	6:46	4:48	5:39	5:08	5:46	5:32	6:17
18	5:26	6:47	4:47	5:38	5:07	5:45	5:31	6:16
19	5:25	6:48	4:46	5:37	5:06	5:44	5:30	6:15
20	5:23	6:49	4:44	5:35	5:05	5:43	5:29	6:14
21	5:22	6:50	4:43	5:34	5:04	5:42	5:28	6:13
22	5:20	6:51	4:41	5:32	5:03	5:41	5:27	6:12
23	5:19	6:52	4:40	5:31	5:02	5:40	5:26	6:11
24	5:18	6:53	4:39	5:30	5:01	5:39	5:25	6:10
25	5:16	6:54	4:37	5:28	5:00	5:38	5:24	6:09
26	5:15	6:55	4:36	5:27	4:59	5:37	5:23	6:08
27	5:14	6:56	4:35	5:26	4:58	5:36	5:22	6:07
28	5:12	6:57	4:33	5:24	4:56	5:34	5:20	6:05
29	5:11	6:58	4:32	5:23	4:55	5:33	5:19	6:04
30	5:10	6:58	4:31	5:22	4:54	5:32	5:18	6:03
31	4:43	7:26		6:13	5:07		5:26	

\* Source: Nautical Almanac, U.S. Navy Observatory

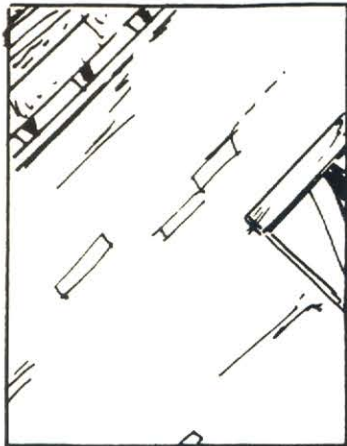


NO ONE KNOWS  
THAT OLD MODUS IS NOT DEAD.



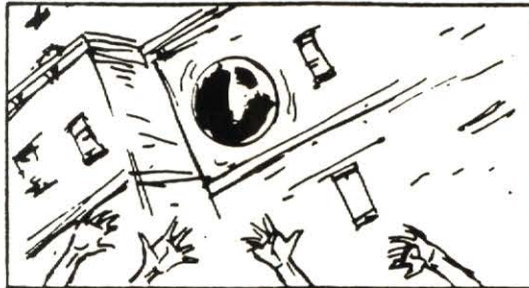
# THE BLOOD BATH

STORY- JOHN E  
ART- GEORGE VELEZ



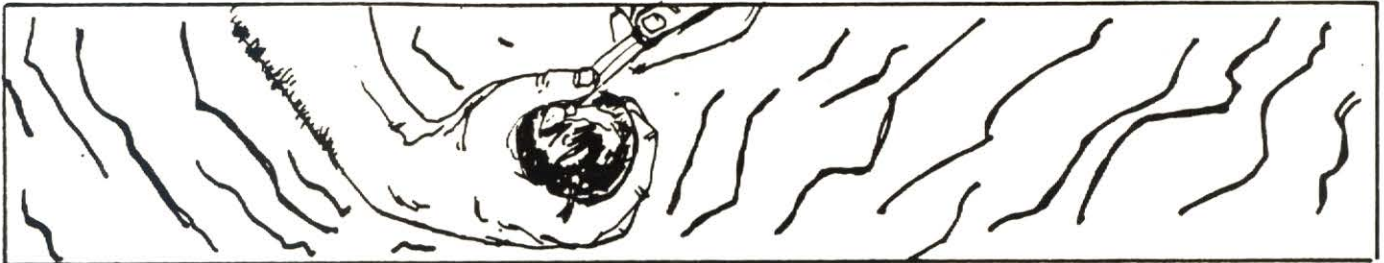
Now I sit around an  
apartment all day...

too frightened to go  
out, looking out the  
grimy window how  
then...

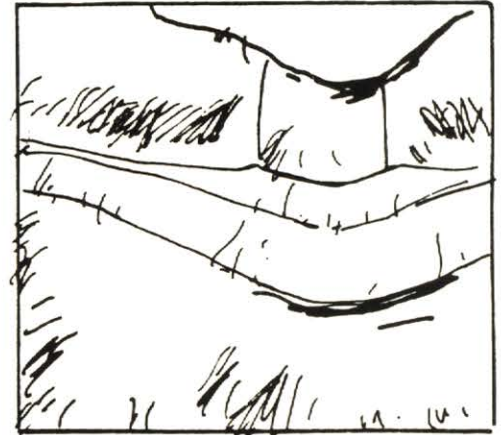


listening to neighborhood  
dogs bark & children play.

Once in awhile I cut myself —



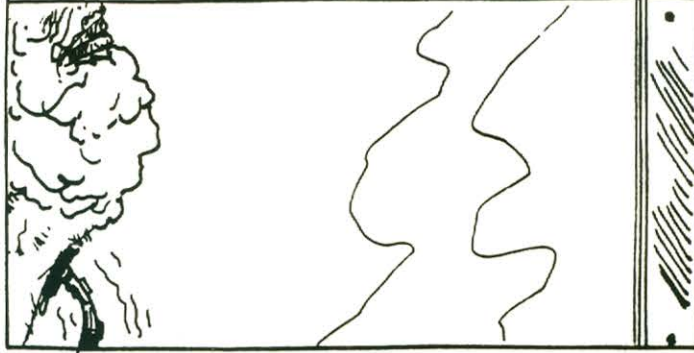
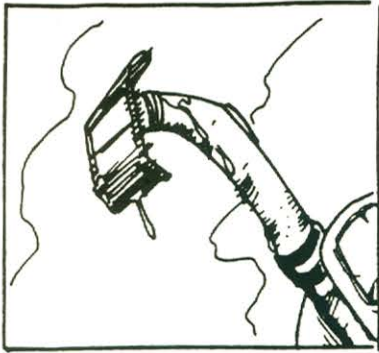
almost on purpose —



just to see if it's still in there.



Maybe while I'm shaving — cut my throat —



stand here staring  
at the bloody  
reflection



too fascinated  
to move,

but then I do...



wrapping a towel around  
my neck for a tourniquet,



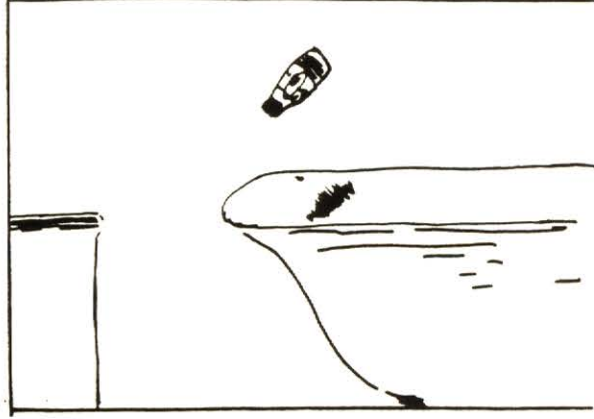
shuffling off to sit &  
watch television

while my face blooms out  
red.



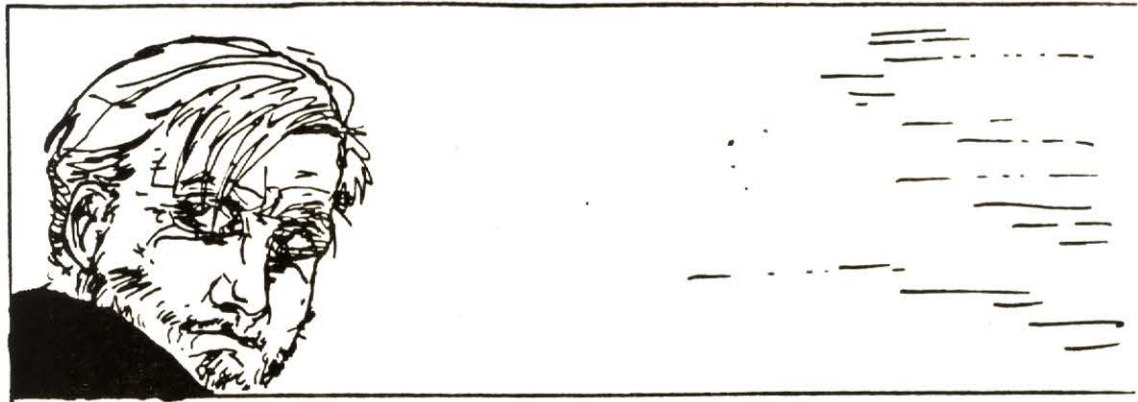


One night I got really drunk & kept tossing empty beer bottles  
at the wastebasket by the bathtub.



but I missed every time, sending them hurling into the tub  
where they exploded & broke.

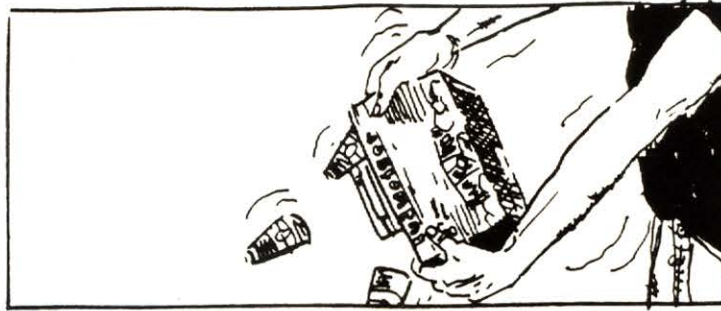
When I got up to take a piss I'd notice the brown shards catching light against the white porcelain,



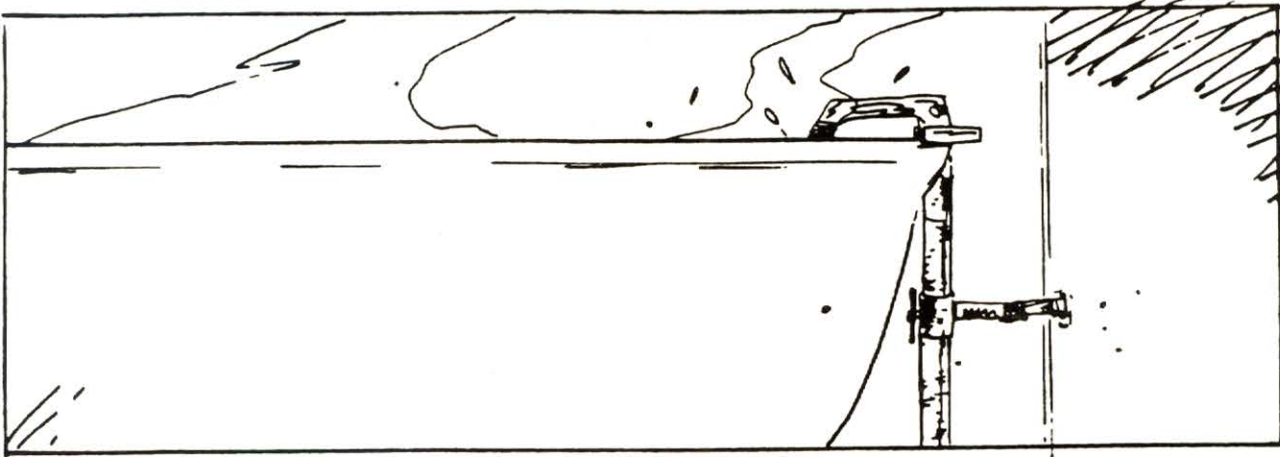
my gaze wandering vacantly across the jagged curves & sharp points.





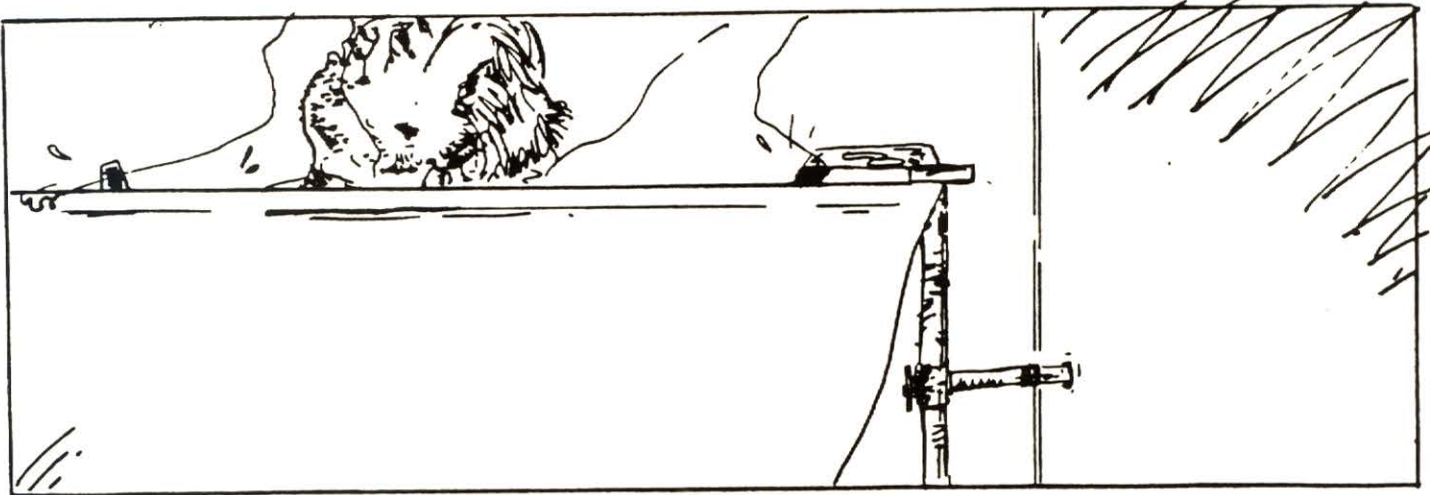


After I'd chucked about a case in there, I ran the water slow & hot, almost to the top.



Naked, I popped the top off another bottle & lay down upon the broken glass

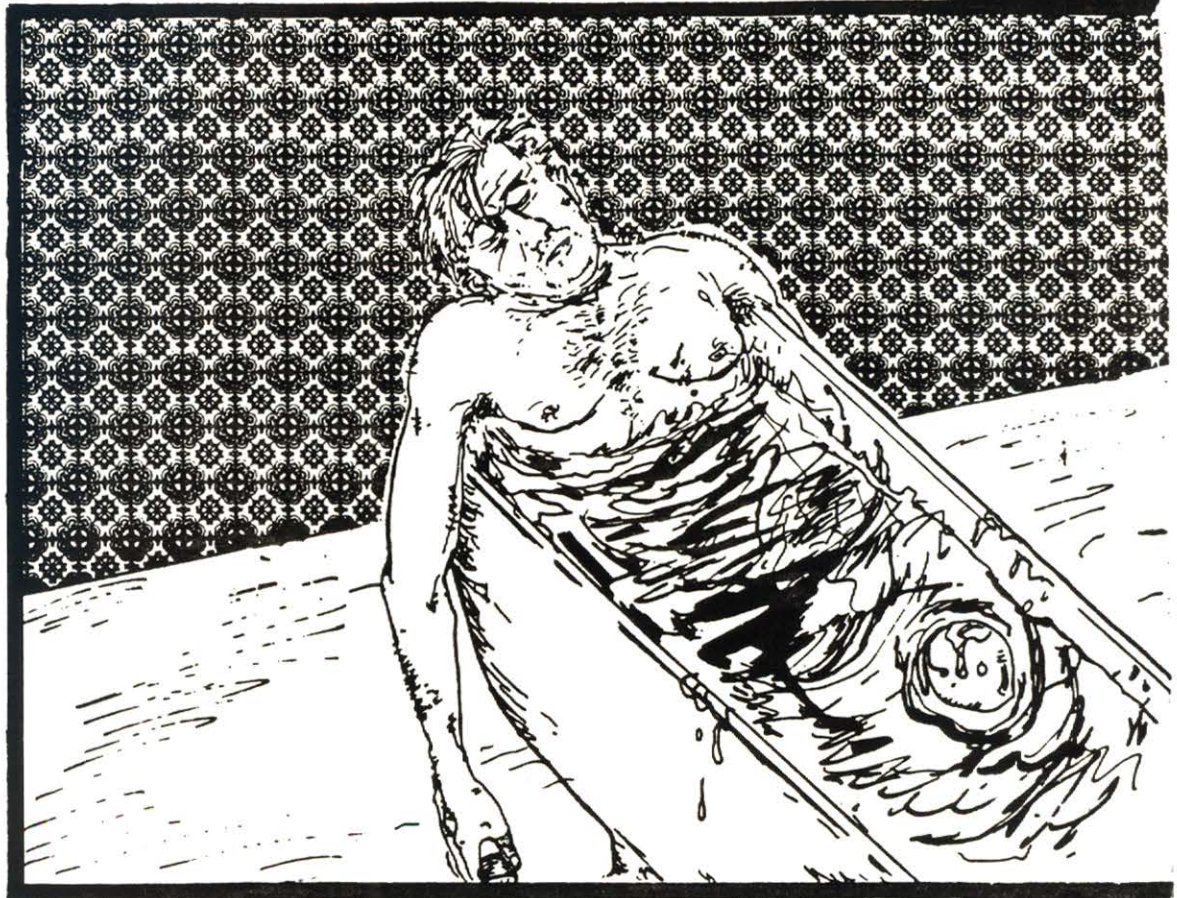
moving a bit in the water underneath me.





I fell asleep, woke up swimming in my own blood.

That worked out so well I ended up taking the waste basket out of the bathroom along with her, pitching my empties in there on purpose.



I seem to be spending more time in the tub these days... watching my life go down the drain.





# LOADED

ART: MARY FLEENER STORY: JOHN EBERLY © 1988

BENJI HAD A FACE  
FULL OF ANGEL DUST  
AND A LOADED .38

HE WEAVED OUT INTO THE STREET  
AND LOOKED UP AT THE APARTMENT  
BUILDING WINDOWS

THEY WERE  
ORANGE  
SQUARES

THAT  
FADED  
UPWARD

IN  
PINPOINTS

AND  
SUDDENLY  
BECAME

STARS

Anyway,

BENJI

COULDN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE







SO HE TRIED TO FOCUS IN ON THE LARGER SQUARES CLOSER TO THE GROUND

WALTER AND MARY HAD JUST FINISHED MAKING LOVE

HE'D BEEN HAVING SOME TROUBLE IN BED LATELY AND DIDN'T EXACTLY FEEL LIKE HE WAS LOSING HIS VIRILITY BUT WHATEVER WAS HAPPENING WAS MAKING HIM LOSE SLEEP

WALTER MOVED TOWARDS THE WINDOW

THE LIGHT BEHIND HIM MADE A SILHOUETTE

BENJI THOUGHT HE WAS IN AN ARCADE

WHEN THE SHADOW POPPED UP.

HE BROUGHT IT DOWN WITH

ONE SHOT



